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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/509,165

09/27/2004

Stephen W. Beadle

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23455

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EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY

5200 BAYWAY DRIVE

P.O. BOX 2149

BAYTOWN, TX 77522-2149

EXAMINER

BULLOCK, IN SUK C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1764

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,165

Applicant(s)

BEADLE ET AL.

Examiner

In Suk Bullock

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/27/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0311310 (hereinafter "EP '310") in view of WO 93/16020 (hereinafter "WO '020").

The EP '310 reference discloses a process for oligomerizing a lower olefin feedstock to produce substantially linear hydrocarbons of higher molecular weight than the feedstock (see page 2, lines 3-4). The feedstock is contacted with ZSM-23 which is surface deactivated with a surface deactivating agent 2,4,6-collidine (see page 2, lines 31-39 and 57-58). The olefin feedstock comprises C_2 - C_{10} olefins, preferably C_3 - C_6 olefins, more preferably C_3 - C_4 olefins. The conditions used to effect oligomerization include a temperature in the range of 1--350° C, a pressure of atmospheric to 20,000 kPa, and a WHSV of 0.01-2. See page 3, lines 1-9. When propylene or butene are oligomerized according to the disclosed process, a mixture of liquid hydrocarbon products is formed comprising at least 95% by weight of mono-olefins oligomers of the empirical formula $C_{(n+nm)}H_{2(n+nm)}$ where n is 3 or 5 and m is an integer from 1 to 6, said mono-olefin oligomers comprising at least 20 % by weight of olefins having at least 12 carbon atoms, said olefins having at least 12 carbon atoms having an average of from 0.80 to 2.00 methyl side groups per carbon chain, said olefins not having any side groups other than methyl (see page 3, lines 10-23).

The EP '310 reference fails to disclose conducting the oligomerization reaction in the presence of water.

The WO '020 reference discloses a process for oligomerization of C_2 - C_{12} alkenes comprising contacting an alkene-containing feedstock having a water content of from 0.05 to 0.25 molar %, based on the hydrocarbon content of the feedstock, with zeolite catalyst (see Abstract; page 3, lines 1-15; and page 4, lines 9-18). The zeolite catalyst may be any catalyst that is active in alkene oligomerization reactions (page 4, lines 20-

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21). Example 1 on page 14 of the specification discloses that the feedstock is hydrated by passing the feedstock, at a temperature of 39° C, through a thermostatted water saturator prior to its introduction into the reactor containing the zeolite catalyst.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the process of EP '310 by hydrating the feedstock as disclosed by WO '020 because WO '020 has taught that hydrating the feed results in improved yields and prolongs catalyst life (see specifically page 3, lines 5-7).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to In Suk Bullock whose telephone number is 571-272-5954. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6:00-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

J. Bullock

I.B.



Glenn Caldarola
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700